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criticism and documentary analysis", instead of the smooth flow of a finished narrative. The work is the more valuable, for it is by no means the last word on the important topics of which it treats; in its own words it "is intended primarily for criticism and discussion, and only secondarily for direct information". Yet we are convinced that most of the positions taken will be maintained after the fullest criticism and discussion, while we are given information as direct and trustworthy as the sources at present available permit.

The emperor's power with the theory of the source of his authority, the nature of Shinto, the institutions of ancient Japan (say 500-645 A. D.), the struggle itself, and its results, are the chief topics treated. A long and deeply instructive chapter has to do with the political doctrine of China, a theme strictly pertinent to the main discussion, since the Reform of 645 A. D. was based upon it.

In conclusion we can but express our appreciation of the book by wishing its author a long life in which to give his high powers to the cultivation of this field of research, a field second to none in importance and in difficulty.

GEORGE WILLIAM KNOX.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Essentials in English History. By ALBERT PERRY WALKER, A.M., Master in the English High School, Boston, in consultation with ALBERT BUSHNELL HART, LL.D., Professor of History, Harvard University. (New York: American Book Company. 1905. Pp. xlii, 550.)

THIS new volume in the "Essentials in History" series under the editorship of Professor Hart is in many respects a model text-book of English history. Limiting himself to the presentation of only the more salient facts and features of national development, Mr. Walker has produced a most usable and teachable manual in line with the recommendations of the Committee of Seven's Report and abreast of the most recent scholarship. His practical experience as a high-school teacher has enabled him to arrange his material to the best advantage and to include only such pedagogical helps as will be of direct benefit to the teacher and pupil alike. The book has the further merit of conciseness combined with clearness, and pupils should find no difficulty in covering the five hundred and fifty pages of text in the course of one year. In fact, as the author suggests in his foreword to the teacher, an even more rapid survey might be made and be then followed up by review-work of a topical character.

Mr. Walker's arrangement of his material in the form of thirty-eight brief chapters, classified in groups under topical headings, and with continuously numbered marginal sectional headings, which avoid

breaking up the narrative, is much to be commended. The opening chapter presents the course and conditions of English history and is a clear exposition of the general features of English political and industrial development, of the influence of physical conditions, and of the early races inhabiting the British Isles. Then follows a good, clear account of the Roman occupation, which is succeeded by a series of excellent chapters on the Anglo-Saxon period. Like praise is due the two following groups of chapters entitled "Norman Feudalism" and "Culmination of Feudalism", save that both the early part of the Hundred Years' War and the great rising of 1381 receive somewhat summary treatment at the hands of the author. The weakest part of the whole history is undoubtedly that portion devoted to "The Tudor Monarchy", Chs. XVII.-XX., in which the author seems to lose much of his historical perspective and judgment. Space forbids any detailed criticism of this portion of the work, but in general it may be said that many of the author's generalizations are not borne out by the facts, his treatment of the reigns of Henry VII. and of Edward VI. is entirely too summary, the enclosure movement is not sufficiently emphasized, Ket's rebellion is not mentioned even in the Search Topics, where matters that should be in the text are sometimes found, and in the reviewer's judgment a wrong impression is given of many important persons and episodes. The treatment of the Stuarts and Parliament is much better and the chapters on the modern period from 1688 to the present are admirable, culminating in a really strong and original discussion of "England's Contribution to Civilization" which cannot fail to drive home certain great truths and important facts in connection with representative government and free institutions.

Almost perfect in the matter of arrangement and in regard to pedagogical apparatus, for nothing but praise can be given to the maps, illustrations, and bibliographies, Mr. Walker's book is open to a certain degree of criticism in matters of detail and questions of judgment. The author is inclined to be somewhat dogmatic and sweeping in his statements, especially in the summaries appended to the different chapters and at times seemingly contradicts himself as for example when at the close of Ch. IV. he says in connection with the year 827 that "political institutions . . . now appeared on a scale truly national through the union of these kingdoms under Egbert" and a little further on (p. 71) that under Dunstan "the West Saxon monarchs were led to attempt a policy national rather than local". Again his own account would seem to qualify the statement in regard to the witenagemot (p. 58) that after the union of the kingdoms (827) it "rapidly became a mere agency for the king's will" and support the truer view that the power of the witan varied inversely with the power of the king. In regard to the Anglo-Saxon laws, also, there seems to be a misapprehension as to their scope and character and a tendency to confuse them with the common or "customary" law, whereas they are almost entirely made up of criminal enactments. The Anglo-Saxon boroughs hardly receive

just treatment and in the chapter on "Early English Institutions" there is a rather sudden transition from government and law to religion. In dealing with the Norman Conquest and the feudalization of English institutions Mr. Walker is hardly up to date in his information as is indicated by his views of the granting of fiefs in different parts of the country and his discussion of the manorial system, especially the lord's courts. There is also throughout the volume a lack of emphasis on the personal element and a partial failure to do justice to the individual work and influence of men like Lanfranc, Richard de Lucy, Hubert Walter and other great advisers of royalty, while the early life of Becket and his change of view receive scant attention. In his characterizations of historical personages Mr. Walker is also occasionally unfortunate and shows a tendency to either over-state or under-state the truth. Few would recognize the Earl of Bothwell, whom a contemporary described as "despiteful out of measure, false and untrue as a devil" in the "man of great wealth and influence" referred to on p. 278. Justice is hardly done to Mary Stuart in Scotland and it is doubtful, to say the least, if Elizabeth should get the credit for statesmanship "more clear-brained if not more far-sighted than her ablest ministers". Too favorable a view, indeed, is taken of Elizabeth and too much credit assigned to her. Of mistakes of fact and textual errors there is a noticeable lack, the following being the only ones of importance that have been noted in the course of a careful reading: "gesith" (p. 38) should be translated "companion" as the equivalent of the Latin "comes"; Alfred did not fight "nine pitched battles" with the Danes in the first year of his reign (p. 67) and his military career and efforts, while important, are certainly exaggerated; Leofric and Siward (p. 80) both held large earldoms before Edward the Confessor came to the throne and there is a tendency to confuse Canute's policy in regard to earldoms with that of his predecessors and successors; is it quite safe to explain the title "Bretwalda" (p. 46) as equivalent to "Duke of the Britains"?; the Earl of Manchester, whom Mr. Walker calls General Manchester, and not Oliver Cromwell, was at the head of the Eastern Association (p. 327); in view of the numerous curious survivals of feudal land-tenure in England, particularly of tenure by serjeantry, is it safe to say that in 1660 "all land-tenures except freehold and copyhold were abolished"; while "three important acts" against nonconformists are referred to (pp. 357-358) four are actually given; the resignation of the Aberdeen Ministry took place during the course of the Crimean War (p. 503) and not before its outbreak, as Mr. Walker would imply; and the date 1853 (p. 504) should, of course, be 1854; and, finally, how many will agree with the dictum that in the whole field of Victorian art "Burne Jones and Watts stand supreme"? (p. 533).

Taken all in all the merits of Mr. Walker's new history far outweigh its faults and shortcomings and it is sure to commend itself to teachers and pupils. The appendixes containing well selected lists of refer-

ence-books and extracts from all of the more important constitutional documents are of great value and form a useful addition to one of the best text-books of English history yet published.

NORMAN MACLAREN TRENHOLME.

A Short History of Venice. By WILLIAM ROSCOE THAYER. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. Pp. xiii, 355.)

THERE has been a great deal of moralizing and of argument regarding the history and institutions of Venice, mostly by the fervent advocates and opponents of these institutions, but there has been very little impartial and thorough investigation of the sources of that history. Venice has left elaborate memorials, but they have not been carefully analyzed, and until we have more scholarly criticism we cannot know definitely what the history of the Republic is. Romanin's work, which Mr. Thayer considers an "invaluable quarry", was a great advance upon its predecessors (except perhaps Filiasi for the early period) but its statements are often unreliable. The authoritative history of Venice is yet to be written, and it can hardly be written during the present generation. There is too much preliminary work still to be done.

Let us illustrate by examining Mr. Thayer's first chapter. In this he follows the commonly accepted tradition. Speaking of the alleged founding of the city on March 25, A. D. 421, he says that this date "doubtless refers to an actual event, the sending from Padua of maritime tribunes to govern the settlers on the islands of Rialto". The document on which this story rests is a manifest forgery, which has been long discredited (see Filiasi, V. 173: *Le Origini di Venezia*, Manfrin, 20 and 21), and it is hard to see how the truth of an event of the fifth century can be inferred from a forged document of a much later period. There is no credible evidence that any city was founded *at Rialto* until centuries after 421.

Equally unfounded is the statement that Attila's invasion in 452 was the occasion of the foundation of an independent Venetian commonwealth. Doubtless when Attila destroyed the cities of the mainland there were many fugitives to the islands, but that these then organized a permanent commonwealth "which never submitted to domination abroad nor suffered a tyrant at home" is utterly unproved. Nay, it is contradicted by the only contemporary and reliable authorities, Cassiodorus and Procopius. During the Ostrogothic domination in Italy Cassiodorus was pretorian prefect at Ravenna and as such he addressed to the "maritime tribunes" of these islands the letter mentioned by Mr. Thayer (p. 9). In this he says: "We have determined in a letter of *command* already given, that Istria should send to the palace of Ravenna merchandise of wine and oil of which it enjoys this year an unusual abundance, but *do you* who possess numerous ships in the neighborhood, look out with *equal favor of devotion* that what it is prepared to deliver you may study to convey with speed. *Similar* indeed will be the favor of each of the two accomplishments". Cassiodorus uses the same im-